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PANCHAYATS AT A GLANCE

(MADRAS STATE)

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INTRODUCTION.

Panchayats have for centuries past formed an integral part of village administration in our country. In South India the Panchayats had their roots in the hoary past and as evident from historical records, inscriptions and monuments, they played a vital role in the integration and development of village life. It is a matter of legitimate pride that in the days of the Chola Kings, i.e., as early as in 1014 A.D., the administration of the panchayats by the village representatives achieved a high degree of efficiency and integrity. The name "Panchayat" implied a group of "five" which functioned and administered the rural affairs as a representative body. There is historic evidence to show that in South India, the Presidents and members who administered these institutions in those days were elected with strict standards as to their character, age (above 35 and below 70 years), capacity and reputation in the villages. The villagers had therefore implicit confidence in them and they were respected and feared. The mode of election then in vogue, though somewhat crude, was yet simple and cheap. The village was divided into convenient blocks and the residents of every block had to write out each on a palmyra leaf the name of the candidate of his choice. All the leaves of the block were bundled up with an index leaf containing the number of the block. They were shuffled in a pot in the presence of the entire village folk and an youngster in teens was required to pick up one of them. The name of the candidate so picked up was noted down as elected for the ward or block. The term of office of the member was one year. They met under the shade of trees and in the village mandapams (halls) to transact business.

The account books of the panchayat were maintained by the Karanathan, which post was filled up with meticulous care. The person chosen for this job was of sterling character, both honest and upright. When he read the annual accounts of the panchayat before the village assembly, he had to undergo the severe ordeal of holding in his hand a piece of hot iron on account of which if blisters were formed, it was considered as an indication of his bad accounts which threw him out of job; otherwise, he was amply rewarded for his excellent, unimpeachable work. The panchayats thus proved efficient units of village administration attending to all the requirements of the villages and also dispensed justice—rough and ready and cheap. But, during the foreign rule, the panchayats lost their moorings, dwindled in numbers and failed to function as effective civic bodies for want of funds and patronage.

However, after the advent of Swaraj, the lost ground is being regained by paying special attention to the villages treating them as the primary units of a Welfare State. In supersession of the

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various panchayat Regulations and Acts right from the Local Fund Act, 1871, down to the Local Boards Act XI of 1930, Madras Village Panchayats Act of 1950 (Act X of 1950) was brought into force. It conferred on the panchayat several additional powers and functions, besides making the levy of taxes mandatory so as to find funds for their growing needs. But still a good many of the panchayats could not function well for reasons like lack of technical and trained personnel to assist and guide them and the funds required to provide for their growing civic needs such as sanitation, water-supply, village roads, lighting, etc. As in all other spheres, so in the sphere of village administration there was a surging mass of enthusiasm after Independence which manifested itself in various directions. The National Extension Service Scheme and Local Development Works undertaken by the Government have given an impetus to the panchayats to avail in full the opportunity afforded to them to improve the villages in all directions. The success of the schemes is in no small measure due to the vital part played by the panchayats in implementing them. Effective steps were taken under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, to cover the maximum number of villages in the State with panchayats according to a phased programme. Under this Act, a panchayat has to be formed for each village with a population of not less than 500, though however to enable the panchayat to function as a viable economic unit, if it is constituted for parts of villages, a population of at least 1,000 is adopted as the basis. There are at present 269 Class I and 9,315 Class II panchayats in this State with 301 wholetime paid Executive Officers working in these panchayats. Class I panchayats are formed for semi-urban areas with a population of not less than 5,000 and annual income of not less than Rs. 10,000, while the remaining panchayats are known as Class II panchayats. Class I panchayats which gain in importance and become urban in character are eventually converted into municipalities, on their satisfying the conditions for such conversion.

The jurisdiction of a panchayat generally extends over a revenue village and in some cases over a group of contiguous villages or parts thereof.

The strength of members of panchayats (both Class I and Class II) ranges from 5 to 15 with reference to population, the maximum number of seats being allotted to panchayats with a population of 2,500 and above. The President and Vice-President are elected from among the members.

Every person included in the electoral roll of the Legislative Assembly constituency relating to the village or portion thereof within the panchayat, is entitled to be included in the electoral roll of the panchayat, to vote and stand for election to the panchayat.

The election to both Class I and Class II panchayats is by secret ballot, to the former by the method of marking on the ballot paper and to the latter by the multiple box system. The system of secret ballot has been introduced for the first time in this State in respect of all Class II panchayats with effect from the recent ordinary elections held in April 1958. It is a happy augury that in these elections to about 5,000 village panchayats so for held, nearly 63 per cent of them were uncontested which is a healthy sign of unity among village people and eschewing party politics in local administration.

From 1st November 1956, the areas comprised in the Kanyakumari district and in the Shencottah taluk of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State have been merged in the Madras State. There are in this merged area 51 panchayats. They are not classified as Class I and Class II. The elections to these panchayats too are held by secret ballot.

The affairs of the panchayats are carried on by the President and members, the former exercising the executive functions also when there is no Executive Officer for the Panchayat. Adequate provision has been made in the Act to check and prevent the abuse of powers, if any, by the President or Vice-President or members of the panchayat. There is also provision empowering the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards for dissolving or superseding a panchayat, if it is found that the panchayat has persistently defaulted or proved its incompetence to run the administration properly or for removing its President, Vice-President or any member in case of any default or abuse of powers by him. The panchayat is to meet at least once in a month to transact its business and the meetings are conducted in its own office with strict regard to the procedure prescribed therefor. In cases of urgency or for special reasons, the panchayat can also meet at shorter intervals. The panchayats carry out functions expressly provided for under the Act (subject to the rules framed thereunder) classified as obligatory and discretionary.

The obligatory functions of the panchayat are—

(*a*) Construction, repair and maintenance of all public roads in the village (other than district roads and National or State Highways) and of all bridges, culverts, road dams and causeways on such roads;

(*b*) the lighting of public roads and public places;

(*c*) the construction of drains and disposal of drainage water and sullage;

(*d*) the cleaning of streets, the removal of rubbish heaps, jungle growth and prickly-pear, the filling in of disused wells, insanitary ponds, pools, etc., and other improvements of the sanitary conditions of the village;

(*e*) the provision of public latrines and arrangements to cleanse latrines whether public or private;

(*f*) the opening and maintenance of burial and burning grounds;

(*g*) the sinking and repairing of wells, the excavation, repair and maintenance of ponds or tanks and construction and upkeep of water works for supply of water for washing and bathing and of protected water for drinking purposes; and

(*h*) preventive and remedial measures connected with any epidemic, or with malaria.

The discretionary functions of panchayat are—

(*a*) the planting and preservation of trees on the sides of the roads vesting in the panchayat;

(*b*) opening and maintenance of public markets, other than markets classified as district markets;

(*c*) central of village fairs and festivals, other than those classified as district fairs and festivals;

(*d*) opening and maintenance of public halting places, landing places, cart-stands, slaughter-houses, etc.;

(*e*) the regulation of buildings;

(*f*) registration of births and deaths;

(*g*) improvements of agriculture and agricultural stock;

(*h*) promotion and encouragement of cottage industries;

(*i*) opening and maintenance of elementary schools, reading rooms and libraries;

(*j*) establishment and maintenance of choultries other than those classified as district choultries;

(*k*) the establishment and maintenance of wireless receiving sets, playgrounds, sports clubs, dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centres, etc.; and

(*l*) veterinary relief, etc.

The accounts of Class II panchayats are audited by the Deputy Panchayat Officers, District Panchayat Officers and Additional District Panchayat Officers while those of Class I panchayats by the Local Fund Audit Department. All items of irregular, inadmissible or excess expenditure are objected to in audit and recovered from the persons responsible by taking surcharge proceedings. Under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, every panchayat constituted for a village under that Act also functions as Panchayat Court exercising judicial powers over the area in its jurisdiction, though under the new Act of 1958 the panchayats will be relieved of this judicial function.

ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP.

State level.

Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

Personal Assistants to the Inspector, two for administration and one for panchayat elections.

District Level.

Regional Inspectors ..	One for each district, i.e., ten for the ten districts. (In the Nilgiris district, a District Panchayat Officer, Grade II, is designated as Regional Inspector.)
District Panchayat Officers and Additional District Panchayat Officers.	Total number of District Panchayat Officers, Grade I—11.
	Total number of Additional District Panchayat Officers, (i.e.), District Panchayat Officers, Grade II—12.
Deputy Panchayat Officers (in non-block areas) and Extension Officers for Panchayats (in block areas).	Total number— 208
Panchayat Executive Officers.	Total Number— 301

Note.—Of the above, all except the Panchayat Executive Officers are of the State Services. The Executive Officers form a separate service designated as Panchayat Executive Officers Service.

CONSTITUTION, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF PANCHAYATS.

The following are the constituents of a panchayat, viz., (1) a President, (2) a Vice-President, (3) members, ranging from 5 to 15 based on the population of the panchayat and (4) an Executive Officer in the case of a notified panchayat functioning as executive authority.

Provision has also been made for reservation of seats to the Scheduled Castes in the panchayat not exceeding one-fifth of its

total strength, if their population is not more than half the total population of the panchayat. The panchayat is divided into wards for the purpose of electing its members. A Class I panchayat is divided into not less than 5 wards, and a Class II panchayat into not less than 2 and not more than 5 wards. The minimum and maximum number of members for a ward of a Class II panchayat is 2 and 5 respectively, while in a Class I panchayat the strength of a ward does not usually exceed two members. The term of members of a panchayat which was three years has been raised to five years as per the recent Amendmnt Act, 1957.

The President shall make arrangements for the election of Vice-President; he shall convene and preside over the meetings of the panchayat and discharge all the duties and powers specifically imposed or conferred on the President by the Act. When the office of the President is vacant, the Vice-President shall exercise the functions of the President until a new president is declared elected and assumes office. He can also function as President if the President is incapacitated or in his absence, and exercise the powers delegated to him by the President. When the Offices of both the President and Vice-President are vacant or when both are incapacitated or absent, a temporary President appointed by the District Panchayat Officer from among the members, shall function as the President during such period. The President, Vice-President and members shall not receive any remuneration. The members have got the right to move resolutions and (interpellate) put questions to the President on matters of administration subject to the rules prescribed.

A whole-time Executive Officer is appointed by the Inspector for such panchayats as are notified for the purpose by the Government. All the Class I panchayats have Executive Officers, besides a few Class II panchayats. When there is no Executive Officer, the President of the panchayat himself performs all the executive functions and thus functions as executive authority. The Executive Officer is paid from the Panchayat Funds his salary and allowances as fixed by Government. There are at present three grades of Executive Officers with a special grade for select panchayats. Their scales of pay are as shown hereunder :—

Grades of Executive Officers.		Scales of pay.
		RS.
Selection Grade.	..	100—2½—120
I Grade.	..	80—2½—100
II Grade.	..	65—1½— 80
III Grade.	..	50—1½— 65

The Executive Authority shall carry into effect the resolutions of the panchayat. In cases where the Executive Authority considers

that a resolution has not been legally passed or is in excess of the powers of the panchayat, he may refer the matter to the higher authorities for orders to cancel or get the resolution modified. Such orders are final. The Executive Authority shall control all the officers and servants of the panchayat and exercise disciplinary powers over them as prescribed in the rules. In case of emergency the Executive Authority can direct the execution of any work or doing of any act, which requires the sanction of the panchayat, but he should report the matter to the panchayat at its next meeting.

The panchayats function under the supervision, guidance and control of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards assisted by the Regional Inspectors of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, at one per district and by the District Panchayat Officers, Additional District Panchayat Officers and Deputy Panchayat Officers whose scales of pay are as noted below :—

	RS.
Regional Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.	300—50/2—700
District Panchayat Officer, Grade I.	200—10—300
District Panchayat Officer, Grade II.	150—5—200
Deputy Panchayat Officer or Extension Officer for panchayats.	100—5—150

Powers have been delegated to the Regional Inspectors to notify the constitution of panchayats, fix their strength, divide them into wards, allocate seats and conduct elections. They have also powers to fix or alter the designation, strength, scales of pay, etc., of the panchayat establishment or transfer a member of the panchayat staff from one panchayat to another within the district as prescribed in the rules. During the period of dissolution or supersession of a panchayat, the functions of the panchayat as also of its President shall devolve on the Special Officer appointed for the purpose. The maximum period of supersession of a panchayat shall be one year. In the new Act of 1958 proposed to be brought into force by stages, the provision for supersession of a panchayat has been deleted. There is provision only for the dissolution of a panchayat for a specified period. Further in the new Act, the panchayat can pass a motion expressing want of confidence in the President or Vice-President of the panchayat. During an emergency, the Inspector or the Collector of the district can direct or provide for the execution of any work by a panchayat which is found to be necessary for the safety of the public and incur the required expenditure therefor from panchayat funds. If a panchayat, President or Executive Officer has made default in performing any duty, the Inspector or the Regional Inspector may by order in writing, fix a period for performance of such duty and if such duty

is not performed within the period so fixed, he may appoint some person to perform it and meet the expenses therefor from the panchayat funds. The Inspector has to accord sanction for the prosecution of a President, Vice-President, Executive Authority or member of a panchayat for offences committed or purported to have been committed in the discharge of their duties, such as misappropriation of panchayat funds, etc.

A panchayat shall levy house tax, profession tax and vehicle tax. In addition, the Government shall adjust to the funds of each panchayat the proceeds of the surcharge on stamp duty in respect of transfers of property within the panchayat limits at such rates as may be fixed. The panchayats also derive income from the following sources, such as one-fourth of the land-cess levied under the Madras District Boards Act, 1920, pilgrim tax, tolls levied during notified festivals, contributions paid in respect of markets, fishery rentals, ferries, income from remunerative enterprises, licence fees, encroachment fees, etc. Further, panchayats are paid grants, 50 per cent or 75 per cent, for provision of inter-village communications and elementary education. In the new Act provision has been made for additional revenue to panchayats and the Panchayat Union Councils by way of increased land cess and special grants, such as matching grant, development grant, education grant, etc. They also get grants under the National Extension Service and Community Development Schemes.

The Executive Authority shall in each year frame and place before the panchayat the budget showing the probable receipts and expenditure during the following year and the panchayat shall sanction the budget with such modifications if any, as it thinks fit. The budget shall provide for all obligatory items of expenditure and is reviewed by the prescribed authority who makes such additions or alterations thereto as are necessary.

The Inspector has powers to extend some of the provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act in panchayat areas for purposes of enforcing building regulations, registration of births and deaths, control of dangerous and offensive trades, etc. Similarly Government have powers to extend the Places of Public Resorts Act, Towns Nuisances Act, Town-Planning Act, etc., to any panchayat area. Government may also authorise the levy of tolls during notified festivals and the recovery of a contribution from the temple, mosque or church authorities concerned towards the expenditure incurred in making sanitary arrangements during festivals. A panchayat with the approval of the Inspector may frame by-laws for carrying out any of the purposes for which it is constituted, such as upkeep of hotels, cart-stands, markets, water-supply, slaughter-house, etc.

With the experience gained in the field of panchayat administration and to provide for more resources and scope for the panchayats to develop and administer their affairs more efficiently, the State Legislature has passed a new Act called the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958. The Government propose to introduce the provisions of this Act stage by stage in the entire State and at any rate before 2nd October 1961. The significant features of this new Act are—

1. The district boards will be replaced by about 360 Panchayat Unions which will be formed at the rate of one for each Development Block delimited under National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development.

2. The entire State will be covered by panchayats within a stipulated time.

3. In the new set up the panchayats will be classified as town and village panchayats instead of as Class I and Class II panchayats on the basis of their population and income, viz. :—

	Population.	Income.
Town Panchayats ..	Not less than 5,000.	Not less than Rs. 10,000.
Village Panchayats ..	Less than 5,000 and not less than 500.	....

4. Specific provisions have been made for the conversion of panchayats into townships and municipalities.

5. A Panchayat Union Council will be constituted for each Panchayat Union and the administration of the Panchayat Union will vest in that council.

6. Every panchayat and every Township Committee within the Panchayat Union will elect a person to the Union Council from among the members. If among the persons so elected there are no women or Schedunded Caste members or if this number is less than three, the Union Council will co-opt such number of women or Scheduled Caste members as may be necessary to ensure that the council includes not less than three women and three Scheduled Caste members.

A member of the State Legislative Assembly representing a constituency comprising the whole or any part of the Panchayat Development Block and any member of the State Legislative Council residing in the Block area shall be entitled to take part in the proceedings of the council but shall not be entitled to vote or to be elected as chairman or vice-chairman of the council.

7. The tenure of the Panchayat Union Council as of the Panchayat will be five years.

8. There will be a chairman and a vice-chairman for every panchayat union council, to be elected from among its members.

9. A Commissioner shall be appointed by the Government for each Panchayat Union Council (he being ordinarily the Block Development Officer concerned) to be paid exclusively from State funds, to perform the executive functions of the Union.

10. The Union Council shall meet at least once in sixty days.

11. A copy of the minutes of the proceedings at every meeting of the Panchayat Union Council as well as all minutes of dissent shall be submitted by the Chairman to the Inspector within three days of the date of the meeting.

12. There shall be an Appointment Committee for every Panchayat Union consisting of the Chairman, the Commissioner and one member elected annually by the Council. Appointments to all posts of the Union (paid from Union Funds) shall be made with the prior approval of the Committee.

13. There shall be an Education Committee and a General Purposes Committee in every Panchayat Union. The Panchayat Union may, and if so required by the Government shall, appoint such other Committees, as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its duties and functions under this Act.

14. Every panchayat shall submit to the Panchayat Union Council a report on its administration for each year before the prescribed date.

15. Every Panchayat Union Council shall submit to the Collector a consolidated report on its administration and on the administration of all panchayats within the Union for each year before the prescribed date and the Collector shall prepare a general report on the administration of the Panchayat Union Councils and Panchayats in the district, place it before the District Development Council and submit the same to the Government with the copy of the resolution of the District Development Council. A copy thereof shall also be sent to the Inspector.

16. In respect of Panchayat Union Councils the Government have the powers to fix or alter the number, designation, etc., of the staff. In respect of panchayats alone Inspector will exercise the said powers as at present.

17. The following functions and powers hitherto exercised by the panchayats or the district boards shall be carried out exclusively by the Union Council :—

(1) Construction, repair and maintenance of all public roads (classified as Panchayat Union roads) and of all bridges, culverts, road dams and causeways on such roads.

(2) The establishment and maintenance of dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centres, etc.

(3) Opening and maintenance and expansion or improvement of elementary schools including payment of grants to private managements in respect of elementary schools.

(4) Preventive and remedial measures connected with epidemics or with malaria.

(5) Maintenance of statistics relating to births and deaths.

(6) Maintenance of common institutions for a group of panchayats.

(7) Opening of new public markets or closing of existing ones with the prior permission of the Inspector.

(8) Control of fairs and festivals classified by the Panchayat Union Council as those reserved for control by it.

(9) Promotion and encouragement of cottage industries.

(10) Control and maintenance of markets classified as Panchayat Union markets.

(11) Improvement of agriculture, agricultural stock and the holding of agricultural shows.

(12) Notifying with the approval of the prescribed authority that no places within the limits of any panchayat village or villages within the Union, shall be used for any Dangerous and Offensive trades specified by Government except with necessary licence.

(13) Grant of permission for construction of factories, installation of machinery, etc., in panchayat villages.

18. The Panchayat Union Councils will be statutorily entrusted with the execution of the National Extension Service Scheme of Community Development including in particular all matters relating to the development of agriculture, animal busbandry and village industries organized on an individual or co-operative basis subject to prescribed conditions and restrictions.

19. There shall be levied in every Panchayat Development Block a local cess at 45 naye Paise on every rupee of land revenue payable to Government in respect of any land for every fasli.

Out of the above proceeds, four-ninths shall be credited to the Panchayat Union (Education) Fund. Out of the proceeds of the local cess collected in every panchayat town in the panchayat development block, a sum representing two-ninths shall be credited to the town panchayat funds.

Out of the balance of the proceeds of the local cess collected in every Panchayat Development Block, such percentage as the Union Council may fix, shall be credited to the Village Panchayat Fund subject to the limit that the total income derived by all village panchayats in the Panchayat Union shall not fall short of Re. 0·20 nP. for each individual of the village population in the Panchayat Union.

Balance, if any, collected in the Panchayat Development Block shall be credited to the funds of the Panchayat Union Council.

20. Every Panchayat Union Council may levy on every person liable to pay land revenue a local cess surcharge at such rate as may be considered suitable but subject to the maximum to be prescribed by the Government.

21. The Government shall pay to each Panchayat Union Council a sum representing Re. 1 for each individual of the population of the Panchayat Development Block concerned, from out of the total land revenue collected in the State during that year.

22. The proceeds of the surcharge on stamp duty collected in the panchayat villages in the entire Block shall be pooled every year and disbursed among all the village panchayats in the block in proportion to the land revenue of the village and those derived in panchayat towns shall be credited to Town Panchayat funds. Panchayats will continue to levy house tax, profession tax and vehicles tax.

23. The following grants shall be paid to the Union Council by the Government :—

(1) Local Education Grant.

(2) Local Cess Surcharge Matching Grant.

(3) Local Roads Grant.

24. A village house-tax matching grant shall be paid on behalf of each village panchayat.

25. In the case of removal of President or Vice-President of a panchayat, the Inspector may issue a notice calling upon the President or Vice-President to offer within a specified date his explanation. If the Inspector considers that the explanation is not satisfactory, he shall forward to the Tahsildar of the taluk, a copy of the notice and explanation of the President or Vice-President for the consideration of the panchayat. The Tahsildar shall convene a meeting and place at that meeting and read to the panchayat the notice of the Inspector as well as the explanation. The decision of the panchayat accepting or rejecting the proposal of the Inspector shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and copy thereof communicated to the Inspector. If the proposal has been accepted by the Panchayat, the Inspector shall by notification remove the President.

26. In the case of removal of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a Panchayat Union Council, Government have to issue the notice to the persons concerned, obtain the explanation and if they deem removal to be necessary, the Government shall forward to the Revenue Divisional Officer a copy of the notice and the explanation and the rest of the procedure in the above item has to be followed and Government can notify removal of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, as the case may be, only if the council accepts the proposal.

Thus the stage has been set for the unfettered progress of the panchayats so as to fulfil their obligation and to play their part well in all the developmental activities of the villages.

One of the main objects of the new Panchayat Act is to carry out the schemes framed for the villages under the National Extension Service and Community Development Programmes through the panchayats and the Panchayat Union Councils and to this end, to have the Developmental Blocks covered completely by panhcayats in the nearest future. Almost all the existing blocks have been covered by panchayats and in the few remaining ones this work is speeded up. The total number of villages in the State is 17,371 of which a majority of the villages both in the block and non-block areas are covered by 9,582 panchayats. Speedy action is being taken to cover the remaining villages with panchayats. The total number of blocks and the number of villages in the blocks covered by panchayats are as below :—

So for 153 blocks have been formed in this State. Up to 28th February 1959, 8,225 villages in these blocks have been covered by panchayats while 329 villages are yet to be covered.

With the introduction of the new Act, it is expected that the Panchayats will not only be the nurseries of Local Adiminstration at the village level, but they will also serve as effective links for all the developmental activities of the State conferring the maximum benefits on the villager.

The appended charts will indicate in brief the activities and achievement of panchayats in this State :—

APPENDIX.

Chart I.

Total number of villages in the State—17,371.

Total number of villages for which panchayats have been formed—12,103.

Total number of panchayats formed—9,582.

Total number of villages yet to be covered by panchayats—5,268.

Total rural population of the State—23,213,569.

Chart II.

	Under Part I Rules.	*Under Part II Rules.*
Number of Panchayats for which elections were held up to 31st January 1959.	245	4,512
Total number of seats—		
To be filled up	3,675	48,116
Filled up	3,674	47,756
Vacant	1	360

CHART II—*cont.*

	Under Part I Rules.	*Under Part II Rules.*
Number of wards in which elections were—		
Held	2,131	15,160
Contested	1,583	3,502
Uncontested	548	11,658
Number of Panchayats in which elections were—		
(1) Totally uncontested	6	2,742
(2) Partially contested, i.e., in some wards.	166	1,396
(3) Totally contested, i.e., in all wards ..	73	374

CHART III.

Total length of roads, streets, etc., maintained or repaired—17,867 miles (for the year 1956–57).

Total amount spent on roads, etc.—Rs. 32,58,294.

CHART IV.

Total number of electric lights in panchayats—56,882.

Total number of kerosene lights in panchayats—43,400.

Total number of mercury vapour lights in panchayats—321.

Total amount spent on lighting—Rs. 21,76,501.

CHART V.

Number of schools maintained by panchayats—941.

Total number of boys and girls attended in those schools—81,604.

Number of schools maintained in buildings—

(1) Owned by panchayats—694.

(2) In rent-free buildings—120.

Number of panchayats in which compulsory education was in force—105.

Number of panchayats which maintained libraries—857.

Number of adult schools—43.

Amount spent by panchayats on education—Rs. 22,80,203.

CHART VI.

Total number of sweepers employed by panchayats—5,456.

Amount spent on pay and allowances of sweepers—Rs. 22,98,265.

Number of latrines in panchayats—2,459.

Number of panchayats which maintained protected water-supply—41.

Chart VI—*cont.*

Number of panchayats which maintained drainage system—196.

Total expenditure on public health—Rs. 71,56,525.

Chart VII.

Number of panchayats in which the Towns Nuisances Act was in force—177.

Number of prosecutions launched—54.

Fines collected—Rs. 139.

Chart VIII.

The principal fairs and festivals in panchayat areas were as follows:—

Coimbatore district—

Koothandiamman festival.
Avanashi Car festival.
Karamadai Rangaswami festival.
Thirowpathiamman Car festival.
Bathrakaliamman festival.
Sellandiamman festival.
Adi 18th Bannari.

Salem district—

Ardhanareeswarar Car festival.
Chitra festival.
Kaliamman festival.
Thai Poosam festival.
Sri Vythrayaswami Car festival.
Sri Choodamathswami festival.

The Nilgiris district—

Roman Catholic Annual festival at Kotagiri.
Mariamman festival at Hulical and Gudalur.

North Arcot district—

Ranganatha festival at Pallikonda.
Brahmotsavam festival at Sholinghur and Tiruvettipuram.
Sri Venugopal Parthasarathy Brahmotsavam at Chetput and Chengam.

Chingleput district—

Madurantakam Brahmotsavam festival.
Uttiramerur Brahmotsavam festival.
Walajabad Brahmotsavam festival.
Tirukkalikundram Brahmotsavam festival.
Sriperumbudur Brahmotsavam festival.
Tiruvottiyur Brahmotsavam festival.
Kunrathur Brahmotsavam festival.
Thirumalisai Brahmotsavam festival.

CHART VIII—*cont.*

The principal fairs and festivals in panchayat areas were as follows:—*cont.*

South Arcot district—

Tirukoilur Tiruvikraswami and Maham festival.
Mailam Panguni Uthiram festival.
Porto Novo Kanthuri festival.
Vriddhachalam Masi Magam.

Madurai district—

Chitra festival, Thaipoosam, Theppotsavam, Panguni Utsavam and Meenakshiamman festival.

Ramanathapuram district—

Sathuragiri Mahalinganar festival, Muthalamman festival, Panguni, Pongal, etc.

Tanjore district—

Amavasais, Ramanavami, Karthigai, Thirumulaipal festival, Chitra festival and Olugamangalam festival.

Tiruchirappalli district—

Mariamman festival, Arudradharshanam, Thaipusam, Panguni Uthiram, Cattle Fair at Manaparai, etc.

Tirunelveli district—

Chitra festival, Visagam, Avánimoolam, Skantha Shasti, Masi festival, Mahavythipatham festival, Sareswaramkoil festival, Lakshmiamman festival, Bharathi festival, Siluvai festival, etc., and cattle fair at Mukkudal.

Shencottah taluk—

Kantha Shasti Utsavam, Annual ursavam, Ammankodai, Christmas festival, Tirukkalyanam, Srimalanathaswamikovil festival, Ramasamikovil festival and Mathankoil festival.

Kanyakumari district—

The 'Margali' festival in Suchindram and the 'Kodai' festival in Mondaikkad in Manavalakurichi Panchayat.

Total amount spent for sanitary arrangements for the festivals—Rs. 55,862.

CHART IX.

Number of panchayats notified to control dangerous and offensive trades—856.

Total amount realized as licence fees—Rs. 10,00,515.

Number of hospitals and dispensaries maintained—116.

Chart X.

The following are the number of markets, cartstands, etc., maintained by panchayats and the income derived therefrom:—

	Income.
	RS.
Markets—479	12,82,646
Cart-stands—1,637 Bus-stands—57. }	4,06,694
Slaughter-houses—302	2,16,935
Chatrams and choultries—12	2,706
Compost depots—286	1,48,120

Chart XI.

Amount of tax collected—

	RS.
House tax	57,10,715
Profession tax	7,35,151
Vehicle tax	7,57,998

Chart XII.

Number of panchayats superseded—1 (1957–58).

Number of panchayats dissolved—5 (in the year 1959).

Number of cases when the Collector used emergency powers—Nil.

Number of resolutions cancelled—13.

Number of panchayats in which weights and measures are tested—107.

Number of panchayats having by-laws for dangerous and offensive trades, collection of taxes, control of water-supply, control of supervision of libraries and reading rooms, etc.—54.

Chart XIII.

Total number of ordinary meetings convened in a year—51,534.

Total number of urgent meetings convened in a year—6,757.

Total number of special meetings convened in a year—4,652.

Chart XIV.

Loans sanctioned to panchayats for productive enterprises under the Second Five-Year Plan:—

Year.	*Object of the Loan.*	*Amount.*
1956–57	Market	1,44,600
	Bus-stand	1,54,000
	Slaughter-house	39,950
	Cart-stand	42,000

Year.	*Object of the Loan.*	*Amount.*
1957–58	Market	1,55,800
	Bus-stand	2,29,450
	Slaughter-house	13,000
	Cart-stand	....
1958–59	Market	1,98,000
	Bus-stand	2,81,000
	Slaughter-house	21,000
	Cart-stand	10,000

352.